

THE ROMULUS ROMAN

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75¢

March 11-17, 2004

American Heart Association makes donation to city

Ashley Lawrence
Staff Writer

In the United States nearly 250,000 people die each year from sudden cardiac arrest, according to the American Heart Association (AHA).

With statistics like that the Romulus Fire Department graciously accepted the gift of an automated external defibrillator (AED) from the AHA at the city council meeting Monday night.

Romulus was chosen to receive the AED by Henry Ford Health System and the AHA in an effort to assist communities in need of equipment.

"We chose five communities overall," said Cindy

Hawkins, senior communications director for AHA. "We worked closely with Fire Chief David Allison and determined with him that with department was in need of another AED."

According to Dale Cook, president of the Southern Wayne Board of AHA, while cardio pulmonary resuscitation (CPR) will keep oxygen circulating, a defibrillator is the only chance of survival for the majority of victims.

"For every minute that passes without treatment, the victims chance of survival decreases by 10 percent," he said. "Since time is of the essence for these victims, it is crucial that all potential medical first responders be equipped with life-saving AEDs."

Hawkins said that AHA was approached by hospitals looking to make this donation.

"We worked with the hospitals, such as Henry Ford to accommodate them in their search to place these units in the communities most needing of them."

Linda Harden, a representative of Henry Ford Hospital was also on hand to donate the AED to the city.

"By making this AED donation, we will be helping local EMS to improve the odds of survival from cardiac arrest in the field," she said. "We think this unit will give cardiac arrest patients the critical minutes they need to restart their hearts."

Romulus received two AEDs in the fall of 2003 also from the AHA.

Lupus survivor credits stem cell research

Ashley Lawrence
Staff Writer

Autoimmune diseases affect more than 50 million people in the United States, according to the American Autoimmune Related Diseases Association (AARDA). This is a statistic Kathy Hammons of Van Buren Township knows all too well.

At the age of 19, Hammons said she was just beginning her life when she received a diagnosis that would forever change the course of that life.

"I was young and healthy, but then something changed," she said. "I started to feel aches and pains and had swelling in my joints."

After a visit to the doctor, Hammons, a former Westland resident, learned that she had Lupus.

Lupus is a disease that Hammons said many people know about, but don't actually understand.

According to the Lupus Foundation of America, Lupus is a chronic inflammatory disease that can affect various parts of the body, especially the skin, joints, blood and kidneys. The body's immune system normally makes



Kathy Hammons

proteins called antibodies to protect the body against viruses, bacteria and other foreign materials.

In a disease such as Lupus, the immune system loses the ability to tell the difference between foreign substances and its own cells and tissues.

"Your body literally begins to attack itself," said Hammons. "And there is really nothing a person can do about it."

There are three separate levels of Lupus, mild, moderate and severe.

People diagnosed with mild Lupus feel aches and pains, but it is something that can be controlled with different over the counter anti-inflammatory med-

See Transplant, page 3

Ecorse Road water main to undergo improvements

Ashley Lawrence
Staff Writer

Driving down Ecorse Road may take a little longer due to the water main replacement scheduled to begin later this month.

Romulus City Council members approved the \$988,640 project at the March 1 meeting.

Carl Brooks, director of the department of public works (DPW), said it was none too soon.

"This section of the main is in

bad shape and really needs replacement," said Brooks. "We have been getting a lot of water main breaks in this section."

The section to be replaced is on Ecorse Road between Merriman and Middlebelt, also included in the replacement will be a small portion off of Ecorse on Taft Road and Colbert Road.

Brooks explained that this section of the water main has fre-

See Water main, page 3



Students from Romulus High School will be competing in the 10th Annual FIRST Robotics competition beginning today at Eastern Michigan University with the assistance of four engineers from the GM Powertrain Engine Plant in Romulus.

Students participate in robotic competition

Ashley Lawrence
Staff Writer

Remember Rosie? She was the beloved robot in "The Jetsons" who was able to do everything imaginable in the shortest amount of time possible.

Or what about Irona from the "Richie Rich" cartoon, she served as maid by day and bodyguard by night.

Well, students from the Romulus High School Robotics Club are designing robots, but for a different purpose.

Romulus High School is one of more than 1,500 schools in the United States, Canada, Brazil, Mexico, Canada and Great Britain participating in the For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology (FIRST) robotics competition.

"This competition brings the education these kids receive into something that is real," said Doug Hoffman, the Romulus High School Robotics Team advisor. "This competition is equal to a high school basketball team playing for a state championship."

The competition paired students with a business in their area that can provide technical assistance to the teams as they create a robot. In Romulus, the team is paired with four engineers from the General Motors Powertrain Engine Plant; Kevin Gay, Scott Froom, Jason Porter and Mit Goins.

Every team in the competition starts with the

same set of materials, which they receive the second week in January. They then have just seven weeks to design and build a robot that will be able to complete a specific task during competition.

Each team begins with two 75 pound buckets filled with everything from wires to computers to motors. The teams are then responsible for designing the robot with the help and expertise of the engineers working with them.

This year the FIRST competitors will be paired with another school during competition, however, they will not know their partner until the reach the event.

The robots will have to be able to gather 30-inch beach balls, knock a ball off a pedestal outside the competition area, move a heavy goal and chin itself on a 10-foot high bar.

The unusual thing this time around in the competition is that Deborah Anderson, a member of the league championship Romulus High School girls basketball team, will have to shoot the beach balls over a 6-foot high barrier into a goal that can be moved by the robot. If Anderson misses a shot, the robot then has to push the ball back into the corner of the competition area where she will be able to retrieve it and try again.

"It is all quite high tech," said Hoffman. "We are literally doing what NASA is doing with the Mars lander right now, but we are just 30-feet

See Robotics, page 3

State representative to seek re-election

Scott Spielman
Editor

Freshman lawmaker State Rep. Phil LaJoy (R-Canton) said he will be seeking a second term.

LaJoy, elected in 2002 to succeed now State Sen. Bruce Patterson (R-Canton) in the 21st House District, said he's been fortunate to have three Public Acts signed into law, but there's still plenty left to be done.

His district includes Canton Township, Van Buren Township, Sumpter Township and the City of Belleville.

LaJoy owned and operated his own business and served for 13 years on the Canton Township Board of Trustees before he won the state office in 2002.

"I felt like I was pretty prepared, but there's so much information up here," he said. "I tell people it's like taking a drink of water from a fire hose."

During his first term he was

"I felt like I was pretty prepared, but there's so much information up here. I tell people it's like taking a drink of water from a fire hose."

Rep. Phil LaJoy

able to settle a financial dispute between the City of Belleville Downtown Development Authority (DDA) and the Michigan Treasury, allowing Belleville to keep more than \$1 million in DDA taxes. He also sponsored a bill to allow township government a voice when speed limits are set on roads in their municipalities - before it was approved, speed limits were

set by the county or state government. He also sponsored a bill to provide more opportunities for businesses to provide apprenticeships and a bill designed to give school districts the ability to save money through bulk purchasing. That's already been approved by the House of Representatives.

"I feel like I've been able to get things done," LaJoy said.

He's got several pieces of legislation still in the works and others nearly signed into law, he said. One of those is a bill to consolidate the human resources departments throughout the state government into one department, which could save the state about \$15 million annually.

He's also working on a land-use bill that would require school districts to go through the site plan approval process and follow

all zoning requirements of local municipalities. Currently, because school districts are state entities, they don't have to follow local guidelines.

LaJoy has also been working on ways to get Ford Road in his home town more driver friendly. He said he's been working with the Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) and other entities to try to get additional exits from I-275 into Canton. The exits now, at Ford Road and Michigan Avenue, are too far apart. Barring that, he said he wants to develop some type of traffic improvement effects at the Ford Road I-275 interchange.

"You could do a lot of things, but until you're able to get some of the traffic on to Cherry Hill or Warren Road, you're fighting a losing battle," LaJoy said.

Walk Michigan now under way

Walk Michigan now under way. Participants are still welcome to join the annual fitness program organized by the Michigan Recreation and Parks Association.

Walkers of all ages may participate in any or all walks. Every time a walker participates, he or she receives another entry for the grand prize drawing to win a trip to Mackinac Island. Dates are: March 13, 18, 20. All walks

start at 8:30 a.m. at Westland Mall, except for the March 13 walk that starts at 8:30 a.m. at the Holliday Nature Preserve.

Mall walkers should enter by Olga's, off Wayne Road. Holliday Park walkers should use the Cowan Road entrance across from Service Merchandise, use the north parking lot and wear sturdy boots.

For more information, call 734-261-1990.

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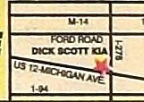
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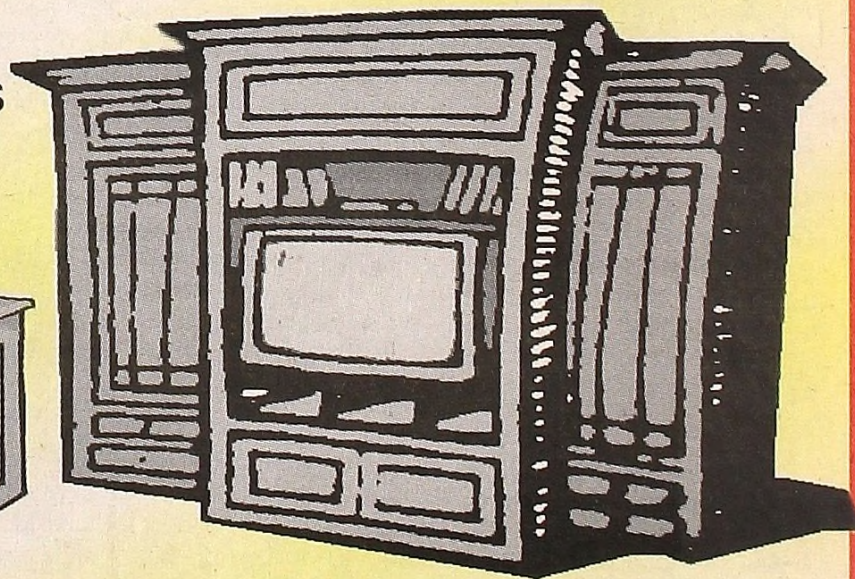


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Kathy Hammons, right, was asked to speak at a event for the Illinois Lupus Foundation by foundation president, Pat Galloway, left, just one week after she was released from Northwestern University Hospital following her stem cell transplant.

Transplant- Patient thrives

FROM PAGE 1

ications such as Advil or Motrin.

Moderate Lupus can actually affect organs within the body, but it is not life threatening. The organs usually affected by this level of Lupus are not essential and the disease can be stopped with steroid treatments.

Originally, Hammons was diagnosed with moderate Lupus.

"It was not great, but it was something that you could live with," she said. "It is rare that the disease progresses to severe, but in my case it did."

For 10 years, Hammons lived with moderate Lupus, but she began to notice that her body was beginning to change.

"During those 10 years, I was in the hospital about once a year for intensive steroid treatments, but that was about it," said Hammons. "Until things started to change."

She began to lose her lung capacity, had difficulty breathing and was rushed to the hospital a number of times, because she said she thought she was having a heart attack.

As the disease progressed, Hammons began to notice ulcers under her skin from the disease eating holes in her veins and, above all else, she began to lose her memory.

"It got to the point where I couldn't read a book or watch a movie," she said. "For no other reason than I couldn't remember what had happened at the top of the page or follow a plot line for more than a couple of minutes."

Hammons then experienced two strokes from the attack on her body.

"I had a 12 percent lung capacity and was on 24-hour oxygen," she said. "I was dying."

Doctors at the University of Michigan started Hammons on a high dosage of chemotherapy in an attempt to again stall the disease, but after 17 months of intensive chemotherapy, it was not working.

"I was in the hospital each month for three days, because they were giving me such a high dosage of chemotherapy," she remembered. "But nothing was working."

At this point there was nothing more the doctors could do, said Hammons.

Hammons said she decided to take matters into her own hands, because no one had any answers and she was not ready to die.

"I got on the internet and began doing searches for anything having to do with my disease and treatments that were available," she said.

While searching, Hammons said she came across a team of researchers at Northwestern University in Chicago who were doing research

on stem cells.

"I emailed the doctor and told them about my condition and he emailed me back and asked me if I could be there in a week," she said.

After many tests, the doctors decided that Hammons was qualified for a stem cell transplant.

When Hammons submitted the transplant procedure into her insurance company, she found that research treatment was not something that was covered by insurance.

"It was a definite setback," she said. "But I could have never believed what happened next was possible."

Hammons said that when she returned from Chicago she spoke with a friend, Bob Thorn.

"We have gotten to know each other doing fundraisers for a little girl here in the area that

needed help raising money for a medical condition," she said. "When I told him that needed to raise \$175,000 to get the transplant he went right to work."

Thorn began by hosting fundraisers for Hammons.

"It ended up that the Detroit Lions did a fundraiser for me and Ford Motor Co. also did

one. It was amazing to see all of the support in my community."

In just three months, Hammons was able to raise \$125,000 for the transplant. The insurance company agreed to pay for her room, which cost about \$50,000.

In 1999, Hammons left her 9-year-old son, Nelson, and her husband, Breen, at home and went to Chicago to have the transplant.

"First they took stem cells out of my hip bone and froze them," she said. "Then I went through intensive doses of chemotherapy to completely kill my immune system."

The theory behind the transplant is that autoimmune diseases are something that a person is not born with, but that something in the environment triggers. So, if the immune system can be destroyed and then a new one inserted as long as the person does not come in contact with the same environmental factors that originally caused the disease, then technically the disease will be gone from the body.

Within 11 days, Hammons new immune system had begun to grow and four months after the procedure began, she returned home to Van Buren Township to begin her long recovery process, which took almost two years.

Five years after the transplant, Hammons is still healthy and living every day to the fullest, because she was once so close to death.

"I was so close to death," she remembered. "And to go from that life to this life is just amazing. But I couldn't have done it without all of the help that I received from this community."

I was in the hospital each month for three days, because they were giving me such a high dosage of chemotherapy. But nothing was working.

Kathy Hammons

Mayor's drug task force offers more scholarships

Ashley Lawrence
Staff Writer

Help is on the way for Romulus students.

Mayor Alan Lambert's substance abuse task force has established four scholarships to help students defray the high cost of post secondary studies.

The task force is offering two community service scholarships and two vocational career scholarships each for \$1,000, which can be used for anything from tuition to laboratory fees.

"This program gives people the opportunity to go on to higher education when in some cases they wouldn't be able to," said Kristin Irwin, a member of the task force.

The community service scholarships will be awarded to applicants who foster community commitment and services. Students applying for this scholarship are asked to describe community service activities they have performed which may include church functions, youth activities, senior citizen services or environmental issues that have improved the lives of others in the community.

The vocational career scholarships will be awarded to applicants who have demonstrated outstanding skills, abilities and aptitude directed toward a specific vocational or career track. One measure of the applicant will be the grades received in classes directly related to their chosen vocation. For this scholarship, overall grade point average will not be a determining factor.

Applicants may be a senior in high school, a student in the alternative education program or

an adult returning to school or continuing their post-secondary studies.

In order to be considered for the awards, applicants must live in Romulus, have a copy of their most recent transcript and have two letters of reference from people familiar with them such as counselors, teachers, pastors or community leaders.

All applications must be submitted to the mayor's office by April 27 for review by the scholarship committee.

The scholarship program was implemented six years ago, according to Margaret LeDuc, also a member of the task force.

"We created these scholarships under the concept that we wanted to help people in the community who wanted to further their education," said LeDuc. "We wanted to help our population receive more education and we feel that we have achieved that goal."

The program is funded by Lambert's annual summer golf outing, said LeDuc.

"Each year we raise about \$10,000 for different programs and events in the City of Romulus," said LeDuc.

Participants pay a \$60 fee and businesses also donate to the cause by sponsoring the outing.

"These scholarships are important because they are not like traditional awards," said LeDuc. "They are not solely based on grades, they are based on the need of kids or young adults who wish to further their knowledge."

LeDuc said she believes that the past recipients of the scholarships have done Romulus proud and they prove that the city can make a difference.

Water main

FROM PAGE 1

quently experienced breaks and due to the severity and number of problems, the replacement is due.

Brooks said the water main can break in one of two ways. A circle main break requires little repair, because a sleeve can be placed over the break and cure the problem. A split in the water main runs horizontally and can require the replacement of as much as 20 feet. This type of break is a serious problem, said

Brooks.

"We have had both types of breaks in the area in question," he said. "So it is good that it is being replaced."

The current water main was installed somewhere in the late 1950s Brooks said. He said he estimated that time frame by examining the fire hydrants that were installed at the same time.

"This section of Ecorse will also receive new fire hydrants at the time the main is replaced," he said. "That is the customary practice."

The project is expected to continue from mid March until sometime in August.

Robotics

FROM PAGE 1

away."

While the event is a great learning experience for the students involved, it is also a very pricey undertaking.

"It is definitely expensive to be in the competitions," said Hoffman. "But we are very lucky because of the assistance we receive from Powertrain, both through monetary funds, as well

as their expertise."

The first competition for the Romulus Robotics Team begins today at Eastern Michigan University at the Convocation Center.

"We feel that we have done a great job this year," he said. "We have been able to work with some amazing engineers and feel like we have a great chance of doing well at the competition. The engineers really helped the students refine their ideas and make them a reality."

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING
OF THE ROMULUS CITY COUNCIL HELD
FEBRUARY 23, 2004 IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER
ROMULUS CITY HALL, 11111 S. WAYNE ROAD,
ROMULUS, MICHIGAN 48174.

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 p.m. by Mayor Pro Tem Randolph Gear.
Present: LeRoy Burcroff, William A. Crova, Randolph Gear, Charles Miller, Michael Prybyla, Debbie Romak, William Wadsworth..
Absent: None.
Administrative Officials in Attendance:
Alan Lambert, Mayor
Linda R. Choate, CMC, Clerk
Pamela Morrison/Kersey, CMFA Treasurer

Roll Call

1. Agenda
2. Minutes
 - A. Approval of the Minutes of the Regular Meeting Held February 9, 2004.
3. Petitioners
 - A. Midfield Concessions Enterprises, Inc., (Co-Licensee) Wayne County Airport Authority (Co-License) Request For A class C-SDM License.
 - B. Jennifer Gonzalez - Request To Vacate That Part Of Heroux Street Abutting Lot 13.
 - C. Richard McBride-Request To Vacate That Part Of Romaine Street Between Menton And I-94.
4. Chairpersons Report, Councilwoman Debbie Romak.
5. Mayors Report - Alan Lambert, Mayor
 - A. Request To Schedule An Study Session-Sanitary Sewer Master Plan.
 - B. Homeland Security Training Grant.
 - C. Introduction of Budget Amendment 03/04-26.
 - D. Introduction Of Budget Amendment 03/04-27.
 - E. 2004/2005 Wayne County CDBG Funding.
 - F. Request To Add Streets To Our Public Street System Under Public Act 5 1.
 - G. Centex-Amendment To Purchase Agreement.
 - H. Bid 03/04-Award Two (2) Triple Combination Pumper Trucks.
- 6A. Administrative Report - Linda R. Choate, Clerk
 1. Second Reading and Final Adoption of Budget Amendment 03/04-25.
 2. City Of Romulus Employees Pension Plan Ordinance Amendment To Chapter 38.**For Your Information:**
 1. General Motors Powertrain Romulus Engine Plant, Re: Clean Corporate Citizen (C3) Designation.
 2. Comcast..Changes To Comcast Digital TV Line-up.
 3. "No Change" In Zoning Petitions ... FYI.
7. Discussion
8. Unfinished Business
9. New Business
10. Communication
11. Warrant 04-04
12. Adjournment

1. Motion by Romak, supported by Crova to approve the agenda as Presented.

Roll Call Vote Showing: Ayes - Burcroff, Crova, Gear, Miller, Prybyla, Romak, Wadsworth.
Nays - None.
Motion Carried Unanimously.

04-078

2. Motion by Wadsworth, supported by Romak, to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of the Romulus City Council held February 23, 2004 as corrected.

Roll Call Vote Showing: Ayes - Burcroff, Crova, Gear, Miller, Prybyla, Romak, Wadsworth.
Nays -None.
Motion Carried Unanimously.

04-079

3A. Motion by Romak, supported by Burcroff to concur with the Romulus Police Department and grant a request from Midfield Concessions Enterprises, Inc., and Wayne County Airport Authority (Co-Licensees) for a new full year class C-SDM License issued under MCL 436.1531 (10); Non transferable to be located at Detroit Metropolitan Airport, Midfield Terminal, Core 1, Romulus, MI 48242, Wayne County.

Roll Call Vote Showing: Ayes - Burcroff, Gear, Miller, Prybyla, Romak, Wadsworth.
Nays - Crova.
Motion Carried.

3B. No Action Taken.

04-080

3C. Motion by Romak, supported by Wadsworth to concur with the request from the petitioner, Richard McBride and vacate that portion of Romaine abutting Lots 331 - 337 and Lots 433 - 439, Supervisors Romulus Plat No. 12 between Menton and I-94 Right-Of-Way, contingent upon a response from MDOT, owners of Lots 436 - 439,

Roll Call Vote Showing: Burcroff, Crova, Gear, Miller, Prybyla, Romak, Wadsworth.
Nays - None.
Motion Carried Unanimously.

04-081

4A1. Motion by Crova, supported by Burcroff to concur with the recommendation of the City Attorney, and authorize the Mayor and Clerk to execute an addendum to the March 17, 1997 agreement between the City of Romulus and Northwest Airlines, Inc.

Roll Call Vote Showing: Ayes - Burcroff, Crova, Gear, Miller, Prybyla, Romak, Wadsworth.
Nays - None.
Motion Carried Unanimously.

04-082

4A2. Motion by Wadsworth, supported by Crova to adopt a memorial resolution for the family of Edmund Bizek.

Roll Call Vote Showing: Burcroff, Crova, Gear, Miller, Prybyla, Romak, Wadsworth.
Nays - None.
Motion Carried Unanimously.

04-083

*Councilman Miller disclosed that his son-in-law is a member of the Police Officers Labor Council of Michigan (POLC), Romulus Command Officers Association Union contract. City Council decided there was no conflict of interest.

4A3. Motion by Wadsworth, supported by Burcroff to ratify the POLC, Command Officers Contract, effective July 1, 2000 through June 30, 2004.

Roll Call Vote Showing: Burcroff, Gear, Miller, Romak, Wadsworth.
Nays - Crova, Prybyla.
Motion Carried.

4. Motion by Romak, supported by Miller to accept the Chairman's Report.

Roll Call Vote Showing: Ayes - Burcroff, Crova, Gear, Miller, Prybyla, Romak, Wadsworth.
Nays - None.
Motion Carried Unanimously.

04-084

5A. Motion by Romak, supported by Miller to concur with the administration and schedule a Study Session to be held in Romulus City Hall, 11111 Wayne Road, Romulus, Michigan, on Monday, March 22, 2004 at 6:00 p.m., for the purpose of discussing the final draft of the Sanitary Sewer Master Plan.

Roll Call Vote Showing: Ayes - Burcroff, Crova, Gear Miller, Prybyla, Romak, Wadsworth. Nays -None. Motion Carried Unanimously.

04-085

5B. Motion to Crova, supported by Miller to concur with Emergency Management Coordinator, Margaret Leduc, and authorize the Mayor and Emergency Management Coordinator to enter into the 2003 State Homeland Security Grant Program Part 11 Training Grant Agreement with the State of Michigan.

Roll Call Vote Showing: Ayes - Burcroff, Crova, Gear, Miller, Prybyla, Romak, Wadsworth.
Nays - None.
Motion Carried Unanimously.

04-086

5C. Motion by Wadsworth, supported by Burcroff to introduce Budget Amendment 03/04

26:				
FUND/DEPT.		Current		Amended
Account No.	Account Name	Budget	Amendment	Budget
Emergency Management:				
Revenues:				
101-3510-512.54-33	Homeland Exercise Grant	0	5,500	5,500
101-3510-512.54-34	Homeland Security S.A.P. Grant	0	25,000	25,000
Expenditures:				
101-3510-735.73-09	Operating Supplies Exe. Grant	0	5,500	5,500
101-3120.752.73-30	Operating Supplies-Library	33,142	25,000	58,142

To recognize grant revenues and offsetting expenditures for the Homeland Solution Area Planner Grant and the Homeland Exercise Grant approved previously by City Council.

Roll Call Vote Showing. Ayes - Burcroff, Crova, Gear, Miller, Prybyla, Romak, Wadsworth.
Nays - None.
Motion Carried Unanimously.

04-087

5D. Motion by Burcroff, supported by Romak to introduce Budget Amendment 03/04-27:

Fund/Dept		Current		Amended
Account No.	Account Name	Budget	Amendment	Budget
Property & Liability Ins.				
Expenditures				
677-8120-882.74-49	Claims Expense	25,000	40,000	65,000
Retained Earnings		Available	Appropriate	Balance

OPINION

Good idea that won't work

Just when many local officials think they have a handle on putting together a budget with reduced state-shared revenue, along comes a plan to take away more of their ever-dwindling resources.

The latest threat comes in the form of House Bill (HB) 4234, which would amend the General Property Tax Act to exempt \$10,000 in personal property taxes from all businesses.

This bill was likely formed to help small businesses, the backbone of the economy, and to help others, but it's got a few crucial faults.

It's permanent, for one thing, and slow economic periods are only temporary.

It would also hurt local municipalities, which are already feeling the pinch from reduced state-shared revenue and other loss income at a time when the costs of doing business are on the rise.

The impact wouldn't exactly be devastating for cash-strapped communities, but it's another rock thrown on top of the burden they're already forced to bear. In the City of Wayne it would ultimately mean a loss of nearly \$75,000 annually. Many larger communities may look at that as an unimpressive sum, but in Wayne it's the cost of a potential upgrade put off, a few programs at the recreation or senior department.

Coupled with recent cuts from the state, the bill may be the beginning of an alarming trend, an unwanted message to governments in cities, townships and villages: you are on your own.

It also doesn't send a very pretty picture to homeowners, who will ultimately be forced to make up the difference in taxes. Basic economics tells us that all governments need taxes to survive. Local governments tend to pursue business ventures in their cities and townships because they are a good thing. Not only do they bring people inside, but they provide more tax revenue and, on the average, demand fewer services than do residential neighborhoods. In short, they help balance out the tax burden.

It's no secret that the economy is in a downturn. It has picked up in other places throughout the country, but is still lagging in Michigan. Perhaps the legislature can't be faulted for trying to promote businesses in any way they can. But shifting the burden back to residents isn't going to help anyone.

Farewell to an honest man

The City of Inkster said farewell to City Manager Robert L. Gordon last Friday.

Gordon, a former Harlem Globetrotter and personnel manager for the city, said good-bye with great dignity and class at the end of a party that took place at the Booker Dozier Recreation Complex.

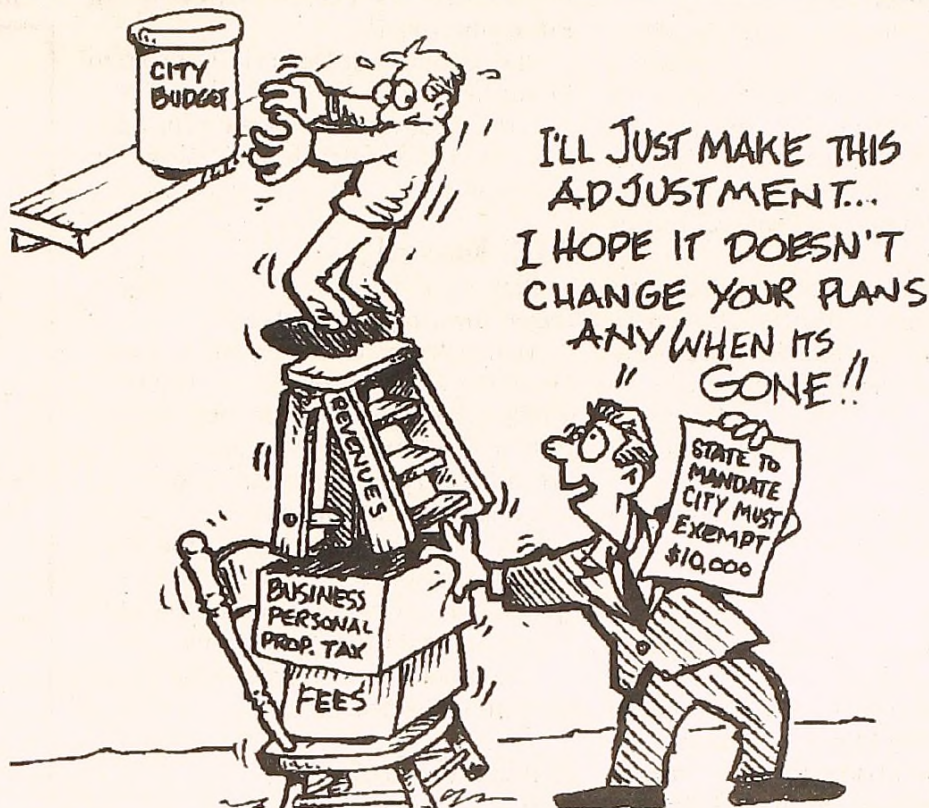
Gordon was hired by the city as the personnel director in 1993 and was promoted to the city manager spot after the abrupt resignation of Margie Rose in 1998. Since then, Gordon steered the city out of a \$2 million budget crisis for the 2003-04 fiscal year and oversaw some high-profile building projects.

During that tenure, there have been some bumps in the road, but that's unavoidable. On balance, Gordon has served the community well. He did double-duty as the city manager and personnel director to save the city much-needed funds. There was scarcely a time that Gordon's car wasn't parked in the city hall lot on weekends – it could be seen from Inkster Road.

Gordon also endured barbs and accusations from some city council members – including criticism about his management style – during much of the last year. Many officials and several citizens said the strain of the position was taking a toll on his health. In some respects, it's a wonder Gordon didn't leave sooner.

Gordon, whose background is firmly rooted in labor relations, said he would like to work for himself, possibly as a union arbitrator.

At his farewell party, Gordon said he had slept well each and every night while working for the city. We're sure he'll sleep better now.



The law of the jungle

Sometimes I have to wonder if there's such a thing as good-natured competition, anymore.

Many businesspeople have told me, throughout the years, that competition is a good thing. It brings everyone up a notch because everyone tries to outdo the competition. They speak of it as a friendly rivalry, but many times, the words are just words, and actions speak louder.

And sometimes, even the words aren't all that friendly. Take some of the dialogue from a Canton Township Planning Commission meeting last week, for example.

The commissioners listened to a proposal from Bob Goodrich, owner of Goodrich Family Theaters (known locally as the Canton Cinema Six), to add another screen to the venerable theater, overhaul the inside, and spruce up the landscaping around it. The investment is, in part, a response to a proposed multi-plex Emagine Theater that will be constructed further east on Ford Road, on the Canton-Westland border.

Now, this should be a good thing. One community with more than one movie theater is an anomaly around here, since the Quo Vadis closed up in Westland.

Now, with the thought of increased competition, a building that has less than a stellar presence along one of the most crucial township roadways is going to get an upgrade. The planning commissioners must have breathed a sigh of relief at the thought of a new look to the nearly 20-year-old structure.

Owners of the Emagine Theater didn't, though. They had their own presentation for the commission, and through it all, they tried to belittle what

Goodrich was trying to do. They said the addition of one additional theater wouldn't make much of a difference in business for the theater. They said that the way it is designed doesn't meet the current zoning standards they had to follow when they put together their theater. At one point, they even said the proposed improvements at the Canton Cinema Six were the equivalent of lions urinating to mark their territory.

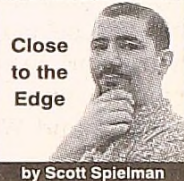
Yikes. That's a nice visual.

Maybe the thought underneath that less-than-classy remark is that there is a value to having two competing cinemas in one community.

I have a hunch that there are other people out there like me, people that don't want to face the prospect of navigating through a traffic nightmare in order to stand in longer lines and probably pay more to watch a movie than they would up the street, at an older theater with new stadium seating where (last I checked, anyway) refills on some concession items are free.

Let's face it, traffic is already ridiculous near the Westland and Canton borders, where I-275 spills traffic out near a large Home Depot, Sam's Club, Wal-mart and more. Add a theater into that mix and the quickest way to get around there will be by foot or by bike.

Regardless of that fact, though, Goodrich deserves the right to reinvest in the theater. Maybe competition in the market place now dictates that companies will try to influence planning commission decisions when they feel infringements on their customer base, but please, let's leave the Wild Kingdom scenes on Animal Planet, OK?



Close to the Edge

by Scott Spielman

Knowing the score is essential

One of the first things I learned in broadcasting baseball games was that I had to give out the score every three minutes or the listeners would lose interest. I used an egg timer to develop this "habit."

In the game of baseball, knowing the score in every inning is an absolute must. The same is true in the game of life – especially in the later innings.

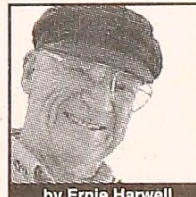
Having said that, I imagine you're wondering what "score" I'm referring to. Well, I recently read an article about a World Health Organization report recommending that older adults regularly assess how well they can carry out daily activities.

What score would you give yourself today? Do you consider yourself "winning" or "losing" at the challenge of living the healthiest life possible? How easily can you prepare meals, climb stairs, do housework and care for pets? Do you walk regularly, even when it's not necessary?

Paying attention to the quantity and quality of our daily physical activity helps shift our perspective. Rather than desiring to be healthier so that we can be more active, we should become more active so that we can be healthier.

And please remember to take care of your health before it's lonngggg gone!

Ernie Harwell, "the voice of the Detroit Tigers" for more than four decades, retired after 55 years behind a major league microphone. Today, at age 86, Ernie's days are filled with serving as a health and fitness advocate for Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan, public appearances, writing, traveling and taking long walks with "Miss Lulu," his wife of more than 60 years. His latest book, a collection of his baseball columns entitled "Life After Baseball," is available in bookstores beginning April 2004.



by Ernie Harwell

JOURNAL

NEWSPAPERS

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OBITUARIES

SHEFFER, Alleda M.

Alleda M. Sheffer, 85, of Ypsilanti Township, died Feb. 23.

Among her survivors is her daughter, Rita Sheffer of Ypsilanti; brothers, Bertram John (Maureen) Bradley of Belleville and Flavian Edward (Lucille) Bradley of Rapid River; sisters, Clare M. King of Canton Township and Theresa Mayer of Belleville, and several nieces and nephews.

Funeral services were at Transfiguration Catholic Church in Ypsilanti where Mrs. Sheffer was a member with Father David M. Franco officiating.

Interment was at Michigan Memorial Park in Flat Rock.

Arrangements were entrusted to the David C. Brown Funeral Home.

STONE, James

James Stone, 14, of Belleville, died Feb. 27.

Among his survivors are his parents, Scott E. (Jessica) Stone of Chattanooga, TN and Scarlett (Donald) Lockridge of Belleville; brothers, Jason Lockridge of Texas, Jacob Johnson of Belleville, Andrew Stone of Chattanooga, TN; sisters, Brooke Lockridge of Texas and Alyssa Pruitt and Jessy Stone of Belleville; grandparents, Terry (Ann) Stone of Virginia and Willis (Ursula) Pruitt of Kentucky.

He was a member of the football team and the track team at North Middle

School where he was an eighth grade student.

Funeral services were in Elizabethtown, KY.

Interment was in Memorial Gardens in Kentucky.

Local arrangements were entrusted to the David C. Brown Funeral Home in Belleville.

PITTS, Roberta L.

Roberta L. "Bobbie" Pitts, 57, of Van Buren Township, died Feb. 26.

Among her survivors are her husband, Franklin D. Pitts; children, Lucinda (Phillip) Smith of Belleville and Kenneth Pitts of Ypsilanti; her parents Jollie J. Crawford of Livonia; a brother; three sisters, and five grandchildren.

Mrs. Pitts was retired from the Ford Motor Co. Rawsonville Plant.

Funeral services were at the David C. Brown Funeral Home in Belleville.

Interment was at Heritage Memorial Gardens in Oconee, SC.

MCNAMARA, Margaret

Margaret L. McNamara, 94, of Belleville, died Feb. 24.

Among her survivors are her children, Kathleen M. Wade of Belleville and Ted (Theresa) McNamara of Belleville, and four grandchildren.

Mrs. McNamara was a graduate of Marygrove College and earned her masters degree at Wayne State University.

Funeral services were at St. Anthony

Catholic Church with Father Thomas R. Cusick officiating.

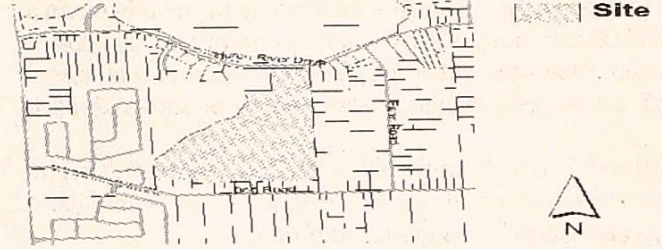
Interment was at Mt. Olivet Cemetery in Detroit. Arrangements were entrusted to the David C. Brown Funeral Home.

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF VAN BUREN PLANNING COMMISSION PUBLIC HEARING

Notice is hereby given that the Charter Township of Van Buren Planning Commission will hold a public hearing in the Board of Trustees Room, 46425 Tyler Road, Charter Township of Van Buren, County of Wayne, Michigan, 48111 on Wednesday March 24, 2004 to consider a zoning change on the following described property:

The Public Hearing relates to the following described property:

Parcel number V125-83-118-99-0007-712 approximately 40.93 acres is located on the south side of West Huron River Drive East of Rawsonville Road and West of Farm Road. A map indicating the location of the subject site is included below.



The applicant is requesting special use approval. A special use approval is required for a Planned Residential Development (PRD) per Section 7.04 of the Zoning Ordinance. Written comments will be accepted at the Department of Developmental Services until 5:00 p.m., March 24, 2004, the hearing date.

In the spirit of compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, individuals with a disability should feel free to contact the Department of Developmental Services, at least seventy-two (72) hours in advance of the meeting, if requesting accommodations.

Publish: March 11, 2004

1954 PA 188 Proceedings

Notice of the Visteon Village Street Lighting Special Assessment Hearing Charter Township of Van Buren Wayne County, Michigan

TO: THE RESIDENTS AND PROPERTY OWNERS OF THE CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF VAN BUREN, WAYNE COUNTY, MICHIGAN, OWNERS OF LAND WITHIN VISTEON VILLAGE AND ANY OTHER INTERESTED PERSONS:

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the Supervisor and Treasurer of the Township has reported to the Township Board and filed in the office of the Township Clerk for public examination a special assessment roll prepared by the Township covering all properties within the Special Assessment District for the Visteon Village Street Lighting Assessment District benefited by the street lighting project. Said assessment roll has been prepared for the purpose of assessing a portion of the costs of the construction of the street lighting and work incidental thereto with the aforesaid Visteon Village Street Lighting Assessment District as more particularly shown on the plans by the DTE Energy Company on file with the Township Clerk at 46425 Tyler Road, Van Buren Township, which assessment is in the total of \$12,776.99 / year.

PLEASE TAKE FURTHER NOTICE that the Treasurer has further reported that the assessment against each and every parcel of land within said district is such relative portion of the whole sum levied against all parcels of land in said district as the benefit to such parcel to such parcels bears to the total benefit to all parcels of land in said district.

PLEASE TAKE FURTHER NOTICE that the Township Board will meet at 7:30 p.m. in the Van Buren Township Board Room, 46425 Tyler Road, Van Buren Township, MI on March 16, 2004 for the purpose of reviewing said special assessment roll and hearing any objections thereto. Said roll may be examined at the office of the Township Clerk during regular business hours of regular business days until the time of said hearing and may further be examined at said hearing. Appearance and protest at the hearing held to confirm the special assessment roll is required in order to appeal the amount of the special assessment to the Michigan Tax Tribunal.

An owner of party in interest, or his or her agent, may appear in person at the hearing to protest the special assessment, or shall be permitted to file his or her appearance or protest by letter and his or her personal appearance shall not be required. (The owner or any person having an interest in the real property who protests in person or in writing at the hearing may file a written appeal of the special assessment with the Michigan Tax Tribunal within 30 days after the confirmation of the special assessment roll.)

*In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, accommodations can be made available with advance notice.

Joannie D. Payne
Clerk

Publish: March 4, 2004
March 11, 2004

1954 PA 188 Proceedings

Notice of Briarwood Estates Special Assessment Hearing Charter Township of Van Buren Wayne County, Michigan

TO: THE RESIDENTS AND PROPERTY OWNERS OF THE CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF VAN BUREN, WAYNE COUNTY, MICHIGAN, OWNERS OF LAND WITHIN BRIARWOOD ESTATES SUBDIVISION AND ANY OTHER INTERESTED PERSONS:

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the Supervisor and Treasurer of the Township has reported to the Township Board and filed in the office of the Township Clerk for public examination a special assessment roll prepared by the Township covering all properties within the Special Assessment District for the Briarwood Estates Subdivision Street Lighting Assessment District benefited by the street lighting project. Said assessment roll has been prepared for the purpose of assessing a portion of the costs of the construction of the street lighting and work incidental thereto with the aforesaid Briarwood Estates Subdivision Street Lighting Assessment District as more particularly shown on the plans by the DTE Energy Company on file with the Township Clerk at 46425 Tyler Road, Van Buren Township, which assessment is in the total of \$2577.52 / year.

PLEASE TAKE FURTHER NOTICE that the Treasurer has further reported that the assessment against each and every parcel of land within said District, Lots 1-53 inclusive, will be equal and the same for each and every lot in the Special Assessment District for the Briarwood Estates Subdivision Street Lighting District.

PLEASE TAKE FURTHER NOTICE that the Township Board will meet at 7:30 p.m. in the Van Buren Township Board Room, 46425 Tyler Road, Van Buren Township, MI on March 16, 2004 for the purpose of reviewing said special assessment roll and hearing any objections thereto. Said roll may be examined at the office of the Township Clerk during regular business hours of regular business days until the time of said hearing and may further be examined at said hearing. Appearance and protest at the hearing held to confirm the special assessment roll is required in order to appeal the amount of the special assessment to the Michigan Tax Tribunal.

An owner of party in interest, or his or her agent, may appear in person at the hearing to protest the special assessment, or shall be permitted to file his or her appearance or protest by letter and his or her personal appearance shall not be required. (The owner or any person having an interest in the real property who protests in person or in writing at the hearing may file a written appeal of the special assessment with the Michigan Tax Tribunal within 30 days after the confirmation of the special assessment roll.)

*In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, accommodations can be made available with advance notice.

Joannie D. Payne
Clerk

Publish: March 4, 2004
March 11, 2004

Continued from page 4

<u>Retained Earnings</u>	<u>Available</u>	<u>Appropriate</u>	<u>Balance</u>
Property & Liability Self Ins.	729,195	40,000	689,195

To appropriate additional funds to cover deductibles and/or claim expenses thru the Michigan Municipal Liability Property Pool thru June 30, 2004.

Roll Call Vote Showing: Ayes - Burcroff, Crova, Gear, Miller, Prybyla, Romak, Wadsworth
Nays - None.
Motion Carried Unanimously.

04-088

5E. Motion by Crova, supported by Wadsworth to concur with the administration and approve the 2004/05 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) proposed projects and the reprogramming of contracts 01-24-30L-24-03F (Rec. Facility- Satterlee Farm Park).

Roll Call vote Showing: Ayes - Burcroff, Crova, Gear, Miller, Prybyla, Romak, Wadsworth.
Nays - None.
Motion Carried Unanimously.

04-089

5F. Motion by Crova, supported by Wadsworth to concur with Mayor Alan Lambert and DPW Director Carl Brooks and adopt items 5F1 through item 5F13 by consent agenda.

1. Whereas, the City of Romulus did acquire title to the following streets as listed in the Fairways at Gateway Subdivision No. 1 and in the Commons 2 Subdivision; and
2. Whereas, it is necessary to furnish certain information to the State of Michigan to place these streets within the City Street System for the purpose of obtaining funds under Act 5 1, P.A. 1951 as amended.
3. NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: That said streets are located within the City 60 ft. right-of-way, are under the control and jurisdiction of the City of Romulus and open to vehicular traffic as of December 31, 2003.
4. That said streets are public streets and are for public street purposes.
5. That said streets are accepted into the City’s Local Street System.

Fairways At Gateway Subdivision #1

04-090

5F1. Augusta Court (Gateway Drive to end of cul-de-sac).

04-091

5F2. Crystal Lake Court (Sand Piper Drive to end of cul-de-sac).

04-092

5F3. Crystal Lake Drive (Gateway Drive to Sand Piper Drive).

04-093

5F4. Gateway Drive (Van Born S. & Southeast to St. Andrews Drive).

04-094

5F5. Lochmoor Blvd. (Sand Piper Drive South to Beverly Road).

04-095

5F6. Mistwood Court (Crystal Lake Drive to end of cul-de-sac).

04-096

5F7. Sand Piper Drive (Lochmoor Blvd. To Crystal Lake Drive).

Commons “2” Subdivision

04-097

5F8. Buckingham Drive (Hannan Road to Hampton Drive).

04-098

5F9. Camden Drive (Buckingham Drive to Nottingham Drive).

04-099

5F10. Hampton Drive (Buckingham Drive to Nottingham Drive).

04-100

5F11. Nottingham Drive (Camden Drive to Cogswell Road).

04-101

5F12. Victoria Drive (Buckingham Drive South to Dead End).

04-102

5F13. Villager Drive (Nottingham Drive North to Dead End).

Roll Call Vote Showing: Burcroff, Crova, Gear, Miller, Prybyla, Romak, Wadsworth.
Nays - None.
Motion Carried Unanimously.

04-103

5G. Motion by Miller, supported by Romak to authorize the Mayor and Clerk to enter into the “Third Amendment to Contract Sale” with Centex Homes.

Roll Call Vote Showing: Ayes - Burcroff, Crova, Gear, Miller, Prybyla, Romak,

Wadsworth.
Nays - None.
Motion Carried Unanimously.

04-104

5HL. Motion by Wadsworth, supported by Burcroff to concur with the recommendation of the Fire Department Vehicle Committee and award Bid 03/04-18 Two (2) Triple Combination Pumper Fire Trucks to Pierce manufacturing, Inc., for a total bid price of \$989,593.00 which includes a \$31,351.00 credit for 100% prepayment.

Roll Call Vote Showing: Burcroff, Crova, Gear, Miller, Prybyla, Romak, Wadsworth.
Nays - None.
Motion Carried Unanimously.

04-105

5H2. Motion by Prybyla, supported by Burcroff to authorize funds not to exceed \$10,000.00 for contingency, should changes be necessary during the engineering of the Fire Vehicles for Bid 03/04-18.

Roll Call Vote Showing: Burcroff, Crova, Gear, Miller, Prybyla, Romak, Wadsworth,
Nays - None.
Motion Carried Unanimously.

04-106

5H3. Motion by Burcroff, supported by Prybyla to enter into an Installment Purchase Agreement between the City of Romulus and Comerica bank for \$989,593.00 for sixty (60) months with interest to be calculated at 4.17%.

Roll Call Vote Showing: Burcroff, Crova, Gear, Miller, Prybyla, Romak, Wadsworth.
Nays - None.
Motion Carried Unanimously.

04-107

6A1. Motion by Miller, supported by Wadsworth to approve second reading and final adoption of Budget Amendment 03/04-25 introduced at the meeting held February 9, 2004.

Roll Call Vote Showing: Ayes-Burcroff, Crova, Gear, Miller, Prybyla, Romak, Wadsworth.
Nays - None.
Motion Carried Unanimously.

04-108

6A2. Motion by Romak, supported by Crova to concur with the recommendation of the Pension Committee and introduce an amendment to the Romulus Code of Ordinances Chapter 38, Romulus Employees Pension Plan for the purpose of preserving benefits, rights and features of the Plan which are protected under Internal Revenue Code Section 411 (d).

Roll Call Vote Showing: Burcroff, Crova, Gear, Miller, Prybyla, Romak, Wadsworth,
Nays - None. Motion Carried Unanimously.

04-109

6a3. Motion by Burcroff, supported by Romak to concur with the recommendation of Mayor Alan Lambert and Personnel Director Barbara Fitzgerald, that in accordance with the Romulus Code of Ordinances, Chapter 1, Article III, Section 2-43, Which provides for Personnel Policies and Procedures, a new policy to be known as Policy 28 Military Leave is hereby adopted, pending final review by the Policy and Procedures Committee. Said policy applies to City of Romulus full-time, part-time, and seasonal employees.

Roll Call Vote Showing: Burcroff, Crova, Gear, Miller, Prybyla, Romak, Wadsworth.
Nays - None. Motion Carried Unanimously,

04-110

10. Motion by Romak, supported by Crova, to adopt a resolution to acknowledge General Motors Powertrain Romulus Engine Plant, Romulus, Michigan for their continued participation in the Clean Corporate Citizen (C3) designation program to exemplify corporate environmental responsibility through its continuing commitment to maintain, protect and enhance Michigan’s environmental resources.

Roll Call Vote Showing: Ayes - Burcroff, Crova, Gear, Miller, Prybyla, Romak, Wadsworth.
Nays - None.
Motion Carried Unanimously.

04-111

11. Motion by Prybyla, supported by Burcroff to grant authorization to pay Warrant 04-04 in the grand total amount of Eight Hundred Ninety Two Thousand, Two Hundred Six Dollars and Eighty Eight Cents (\$892,206.88).

Roll Call Vote Showing: Ayes - Burcroff, Gear, Miller, Prybyla, Romak, Wadsworth.
Nays - Crova. Motion Carried Unanimously.

12. Motion by Wadsworth, supported by Crova to adjourn the regular meeting of the Romulus City Council.

Roll Call Vote Showing: Ayes - Burcroff, Crova, Gear, Miller, Prybyla, Romak, Wadsworth, Nays - None. Motion Carried Unanimously.

Linda R. Choate, CMC, Clerk

Publish: March 11, 2004

THE SCENE

PLAY BALL Vintage baseball team brings back 'gentleman's game'

Meghan Chatham
Staff Writer

When a group men from Plymouth and Northville competed in the earliest known area baseball game in 1869, they had no way of knowing that the evening would be remembered more than 130 years later.

"It's baseball the way it was meant to be played," said Wayne Titus, founder of the modern-day Eclipse Base Ball Club, which has revived the rules of the 1869 game. The players on the original Eclipse Base Ball team played only one recorded game.

"We don't know whether that was the first game they played or the last game they played," said Titus. In fact, he said that they only knew it occurred at all because the game was mentioned in the local newspaper:

Players are currently being

sought to continue the tradition for the Eclipse Base Ball Club.

"A love of baseball, and of history, would attract you to the game," said Titus.

They need at least nine players to run the team, but last year they drew 21 players of all ages, professions, and skill levels. If they attract more than 21 players this year, Titus said that they would try to field a second team.

"It's a lot of fun," said Titus. "It reminds me of Little League."

Registration is \$30. In addition, each player is required to purchase his own uniform at an estimated cost of between \$75 and \$100. The team practices about once a week, and players are expected to cover whatever position needs to be covered. There are no set field positions.

Titus said that he discovered an interest in vintage baseball following the strike by the major

league baseball players in the 1990s. Out of his frustration with the current game came an attraction to the vintage game, which he said has none of the posturing and bad sportsmanship found in the more modern game. As a result, he joined the Canal Fulton Mules, an Ohio-based team. After moving to Michigan, the Northville team was born because he had nothing to wear to the 2002 Victorian Festival that would be as appropriate as his old baseball uniform. People took an interest, and last year the newly formed Eclipse Base Ball Club participated in the Victorian Festival.

The team plays by the rules that were generally accepted in the 1855-1870 era, mainly focusing on rules present during 1869 games. Titus said that while baseball had evolved to become very similar to the game played by the

1880s or 1890s, in 1869 the Eclipse would have done things a little differently. In addition to slightly different rules, cursing and spitting were not tolerated.

"It was a gentleman's game," said Titus.

Another difference was in the pitching technique. Unlike today's overhand throw, the Eclipse use an underhand pitch from 45 feet away.

"The ball was meant to be hit," said Titus. This statement is backed up by the box scores, as the original Eclipse team beat Plymouth 53-36.

Team members wear replicas of the original uniform for the games, and do not wear baseball gloves because they were not commonly used at that time.

"We try to be as historically accurate as possible," said Titus.

The modern day Eclipse team plays several games each year

against vintage baseball teams from throughout the area.

"I'm scheduling games now. We will probably play 15 to 20 games," said Titus. "We get around."

See Team, page 9




Players on the vintage Eclipse Base Ball team include, top row from left, Steve "Anchor" Fecht, Greg "Inky" Palovich, Don "Bullhorn" Heitge, Wayne "Cashbox" Titus, Larry "Toad" Darling, Jim "Pops" Gallogly, Chuck "Paddy" Burke. In the bottom row, from left are players Bill "The Hammer" Burke, Ed "Preacher" Fleming, John "Sticky Feet" MacInnis, Bob "Z" Zdanowski, Ken "Doc" Stopa, the team mascot, David "Ginger Boy" Titus, John "Barrister" Lange, Norm "Pig Pen" Kubitskey, and Al "Toes" Smitley. Photo by Mayor Chris Johnson, Steve Fecht Photography

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Proposed tax bill prompts local criticism

Scott Spielman
Editor

A bill pending in the Michigan House of Representatives has drawn criticism from officials in some cash-strapped municipalities.

The bill, House Bill (HB) 4234, would require municipalities to provide personal property tax exemptions to all businesses in their communities. It would provide an exemption for the first \$3,000 in 2005, the first \$6,000 in 2006 and then the first \$10,000 in 2007. After that, the exemption would cover the first \$10,000 of personal property taxes, permanently.

"It's one bill that the City of Wayne will not support," said Wayne Mayor Al Haidous. "At the same time (the state) is cutting our revenue sharing; now they want to take our most important tax. It's economic disaster for

communities like us."

Tim McCurley, director of the Wayne Finance Department, said the city would lose about \$28,500 in 2005, \$50,000 in 2006 and nearly \$75,000 in 2007 if the bill is approved and signed into law. It passed through committee and moved to the House floor at the end of February.

"If this is approved by the state, we're going to lose some tax revenue," McCurley said. "It's shifting the tax burden from the businesses to the residents and that's not a good sign."

Officials in Wayne aren't the only ones concerned about the pending legislation, either. The tight budget in the City of Plymouth, already has members of the administration and city commission concerned. They're beginning budget preparations early because they may have to cut up to \$1.2 million from the \$6 million budget to compensate for

loss of state-shared revenue, interest income and keep in line with rising costs.

"This would be bad news for us," said Paul Sincok, Plymouth city manager.

Finance Director Mark Christiansen said the bill would have an impact of about \$23,000 in the first year and ultimately, in 2007, would mean that about half the businesses in the City of Plymouth would be exempt from paying personal property taxes.

"I don't see how you can justify saying, just because you're paying less than \$10,000, you're exempt, when everybody else has to pay," he said. "This is another fine, knee-jerk reaction from the state."

State Rep. Phil LaJoy (R-Canton) said the bill wasn't designed to penalize local communities, many of which have felt the bite of reduced revenue sharing.

"We have to look at what we're doing on revenue sharing," LaJoy said. "Some of the communities are struggling. We can't keep going in that direction."

At the same time, though, he said the state needs to do something to foster the growth of business in order to help turn around

the economy. Michigan, as a state, is very costly in which to do business, he said.

The bill hasn't come to a vote, and he said he anticipated a lot more debate in the legislature before it does.

"I'm not sure what we're going to do with it yet," he said.

Team

FROM PAGE 8

Games are played behind Mill Race Village at Ford Field. Rather than using the baseball diamond, the team actually plays their games in the outfield. Most games are played on Sunday

afternoons. Currently, the first home game is scheduled for 1 p.m. Sunday, May 23 against the Never Sweat Merchants of Western Wayne County.

While their competitors are also vintage baseball teams, there are occasionally minor changes, since the game is played by the rules of the era recreated by the hosting team. For exam-

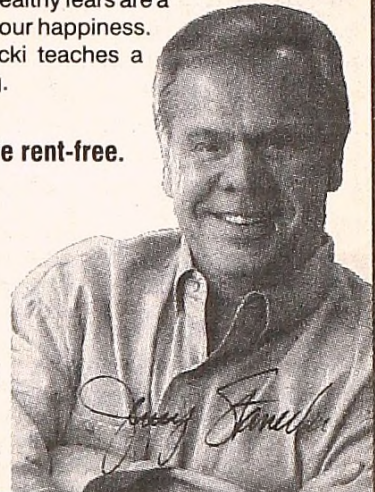
ple, according to Titus, sliding was considered to be an acceptable and widely used practice by the late 1860s. When playing teams with earlier rules, however, there is no sliding permitted, because it was considered unsportsman-like.

For more information, contact Titus at 248-305-5572 or via email at wbt@amdgservices.com.

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02. In Memoriam
03. Cards of Thanks
04. Monuments
05. Personal
06. Legal Notices
07. Attorneys
08. Entertainment
09. Lost & Found
10. Coming Events
31. Help Wanted Sales

32. Help Wanted
33. Child Care
34. Specialized Services
35. Situations Wanted
40. Business Opportunity
42. Pawn Shops
43. Money to Loan
44. Music Lessons
45. Art Lessons
46. Private Instruction
47. Schools
50. Pets & Supplies

54. Poultry - Livestock
55. Farm Equipment/Supplies
56. Animal Feed
57. Antiques
58. Flea Markets
59. Auctions
60. Misc. Sales
61. Misc. Items
62. Building Supplies
63. Business with Office & Equipment
64. Lawn & Garden Supplies

65. Tree Service
66. Fuel
67. Garden Plant / Supplies
68. Garden / Produce
70. Christmas Trees
72. Machinery Tools
73. Musical Merchandise
74. Sporting Goods
75. Boats / Accessories
76. Snowmobiles
77. Recreation Vehicles
78. Aircraft

82. Wanted to Buy
87. Room for Rent
88. Duplexes for Rent
89. Apartments for Rent
90. Condos for Rent
92. Business Places for Rent
93. Banquet Halls
94. Farm Land for Rent
95. Garages for Rent
97. Cottages for Rent
98. Mobile Homes for Rent
99. Mobile Home Lots for Rent

100. Will Share
101. Wanted to Rent
102. Storage
103. Business with Property
104. Farms with Acreage
105. Mobile Homes for Sale
106. Houses for Sale
107. Condos for Sale
108. Lake with Resort
109. Income with Property
110. Lots for Sale
111. Out of State Property

112. Commercial Lease
113. Real Estate Wanted
114. Auto Accessories
115. Autos for Sale
116. Antique & Classic Cars
117. Trucks & Vans for Sale
118. Handicapped Vehicles
119. Auto Repairs
120. Motorcycles
121. Autos Wanted

4. Monuments & Cemetery Lots

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59. Auctions

Notice Of Public
Sale, pursuant to
State Law, a sale will
be held on March 23,
2004 on the contents
of the following units,
at 1:00 p.m.

C1-20= Lance Hawkins:
Boxes,
Bags, Box spring &
mattress, lamp, fan,
tool box
I-35= Andrea Hancock:
Boxes, furniture
G-5= Diana Smith:
Sofa, loveseat
D-21= Janet Armstrong:
Furniture, Boxes

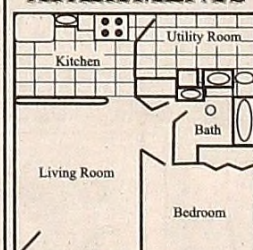
61. Misc. Items

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On MARCH 16, 2004 the
Westland Police
Department will conduct
public auctions of
impounded, abandoned

vehicles. The first auction
will begin promptly at
10:00 a.m. at Westland
Service Towing, 37501
Cherry Hill, Westland, MI,
County of Wayne, where
the following vehicles will
be offered for sale to the
highest bidder:

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4 Door- Red
1G2NE54U4KC16877
1991 Chevy Sonoma.
PK TRK- Black
1GCCS14A8M2250418
1993 Chevy Caprice
4 Door- Blue
1G1BL53E8PW135683
1991 Ford Escort
2 Door- Tan
1FAPP11J8MW285935
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2 Door- Blue
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1993 Mercury Tracer
4 Door- Black
3MAPM148PR619848
2000 Oldsmobile Alero
2 Door- Blue
1G3NL12T4YC420106
1989 Ford Probe
2 Door- White
1ZVBT21CXK5224514
1992 Ford Aerostar
SW- Green
1FMDA31X9NZAB0067
1985 Chevy Blazer
SW- Blue
1G8EK18COFF125553
All vehicles are sold in "as is" condition. Bidding on all vehicles will start at the amount due for towing and storage. Vehicles may be deleted from this list at any time prior to the start of the auction.

60. Misc. Sales

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or Matt 734-735-7379

87. Rooms For Rent

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88. Duplexes For Rent

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89. Apartments For Rent

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Oakland Manor
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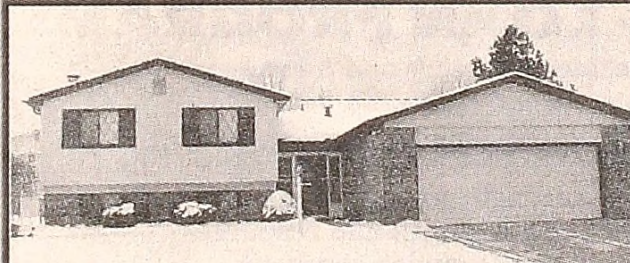
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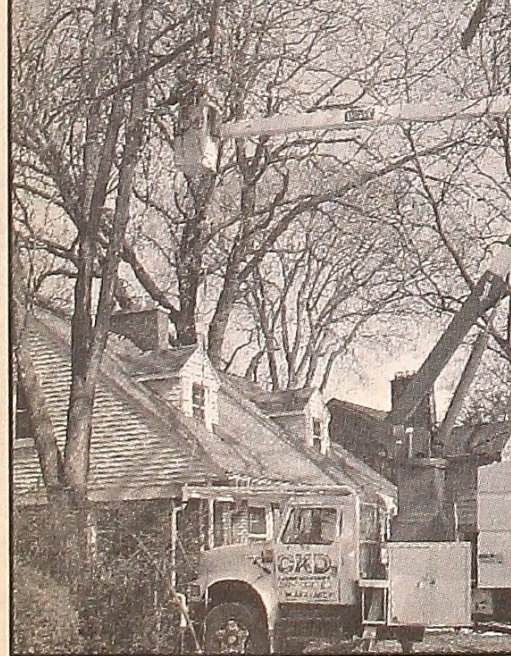


March 20 & 21
12:00 - 3:00 pm

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SPORTS

Whalers win 5 straight, prepare for playoffs

Jeff Novak
Staff Writer

With the playoffs looming in the near future, the Plymouth Whalers have hit their peak at the right time. They have gone on a five-game winning streak and have won seven out of their last eight contests to help ready them for the post season.

Their latest pair of victories came against the Owen Sound Attack, 4-1, and the Erie Otters, 4-3, last weekend.

Against Erie, Plymouth converted on three power play opportunities to hurl past the Otters for the victory. Whalers' captain and Canton native James Wisniewski had four assists on the night to lead the team and Ryan Ramsay scored two goals and added an assist in the win.

Alex Karaulchuk and Rob Hisey each scored a goal and earned an assist for the Otters.

The Whalers started off the scoring with their first power-play goal at 2:48 in the first period. Erie's Hisey was sent to the box for roughing, which allowed Tim Sestito to net the score with help from Wisniewski and Richard Power.

Ramsay extended Plymouth's lead to 2-0 with an even-strength goal at 11:13 in the first. Vaclav

Meidl and Wisniewski were credited with the assists on the play.

The net-minders on both ends of the ice played solid enough to keep the second period scoreless and maintain the 2-0 game in favor of the Whalers.

Erie, however, opened the third frame with a tally from Karaulchuk at 6:23 to cut into the Whaler lead, 2-1. Hisey and Josh Patterson notched the assists.

With one second left on a tripping penalty to the Otters' Derek Merlini, Ramsay put the Whalers up by two marks again with his 27th goal of the season at 9:00 in to the third. Wisniewski and John Mitchell were on the assists.

After the goal, Erie's Tomas Galasek was sent to the penalty box for hooking to give Plymouth another one-man advantage. Mitchell, with help from Wisniewski and Ramsay, took full advantage and put the puck past Erie goalie Josh Disher to make it a 4-1 game.

The Otters wouldn't go quietly, though. They scored two consecutive goals to bring them within one point of sending the game into overtime. Hisey scored from Karaulchuk to make it 4-2 at 16:59. Disher was pulled with a minute left in the game to give Erie another shooter on the ice and it paid off as Chris Campoli



The Plymouth Whalers goalie Paul Drew pokes the puck away as defenseman Mike Knight (25) holds off the Erie Otter's Rob Hisey. Plymouth won the match, 4-3, for their fifth straight victory.

knocked the puck past Plymouth's goalie Paul Drew with just 12 seconds left in the game. Geoff Platt and Hisey earned the assist on the 4-3 goal.

The Whalers remained in control to seal the win.

Drew made 35 saves on the night to help the Whalers in the win, but it was the team effort that shut down the Otters' power play five times in the second period to help steer them to a victory.

Whalers 4, Attack 1

Drew had another standout performance Saturday night when he steered away 40 shots in

the Whalers' 4-1 triumph over the Owen Sound Attack. His efforts earned him the honors of being named the first star of the game.

It was Jonas Fiedler that got things going for Plymouth in the first period. He scored a goal from Mike Knight and John Vigilante at 10:11 to give them a 1-0 lead.

Craig Cescon scored his first goal of the season at 13:04 in the second frame to give Plymouth a two-goal lead. Wisniewski and Sestito recorded the assists on the attack. The Sound attacked back just 35 seconds later to

make it a 2-1 game with an unassisted goal from Mark Giordano.

Plymouth pulled further ahead in the third with a goal from Mitchell to make it 3-1 with Fiedler earning the assist at the 11:00 mark. Ramsay put the game away, 4-1, with an unassisted goal at 15:43.

The Whalers will finish off the regular season this weekend when they hit the road against Kitchener on Friday and Erie on Saturday but will face off against the Windsor Spitfires for the season finale at the Compuware Sports Arena in Plymouth at 2:00 p.m. on Sunday.

Wayne tops Northville, 66-50, wins league Championship

Jeff Novak
Staff Writer

The odds were against the Wayne Memorial Zebras at the start of the season when they lost their first two league games. But since then they have gone on a 10-game winning spree, including the Western Lakes Activities Association (WLAA) Conference Championship game against the Northville Mustangs on Friday night.

There, they jumped ahead in the first few minutes of the game and never let Northville catch up to take the 66-50 win.

"The kids started out the season at the bottom of the division and came out and won the championship," said Wayne coach Wayne Woodard. "I have to give a lot of credit to the kids."

They were off and running when they nailed four points from the get-go and converted on an intercepted pass to take a quick 6-0 lead in the first 20 seconds of the game, according to Northville coach Darrel Schumacher.

"They kept Brett Asher bottled," he said. "We just didn't shoot very well. They (Wayne) did a little better on offensive rebounding with 15 and we had eight. That doesn't help. Wayne also went 8-of-15 from the line in



Wayne Memorial's Danny Walsh battles Northville's Brett Asher (4) for a rebound in the Zebras 66-55 WLAA Championship victory Friday night.

the fourth - that added on to their lead and that hurt us."

After they took the six-point lead, the Zebras continued with their strong play to score 17 and Northville found the basket finally for 10 points. Wayne matched their first quarter numbers to take a 34-22 lead at the half.

"I thought if we could get to within nine points we would be all right," Schumacher said. "We just couldn't get there."

Wayne continued to pound the hoop with baskets and took a 50-34 lead at the end of the third quarter. Northville surged in the fourth to score 16 but so did Wayne in order capture the championship with a 66-50 victory.

"We got off to a good start," Woodard said. "We got the early lead and felt pretty good about it."

Genois Safford led the Zebras

with 23 points in the championship efforts, Danny Walsh contributed with 18 points and Gene Nix added 13.

Mark Sorenson headed Northville's effort with 19 points. Marcus Davis and Tim Singleton added nine points each and Asher contributed with eight.

Wayne wrapped up their league championship with a 73-60 victory over the Salem Rocks last Tuesday night.

"We led from start to finish," Woodard said. "We couldn't shake them, though. They hung around but the closest they got was eight or 10 in the second half."

Wayne had a 28-22 lead after the first half and really took control when they scored 24 points in the third quarter to take a 52-37 lead. Salem came back some in the final quarter and outscored Wayne 23-21 but it wasn't enough. The Zebras held on for the 73-60 victory.

Safford had another outstanding game with 32 points, 16 in each half, and hit 9-9 from the line. Safford was the WLAA's only unanimous All-league selection, according to Woodard. Walsh nailed 14 and made 9 assists. He, along with Brian Hearst, was chosen as All-division players for the team. Gene Nix recorded a double-double against Salem

with 11 points and 11 rebounds.

Dominique Washington led Salem with 23 points and Chris Haar added 14.

Northville had a tough night against the Stevenson Spartans last Tuesday where they fell, 40-42, in a double overtime bout.

"We outplayed them until the fourth quarter," Schumacher said. "They were meticulous. We couldn't buy a basket and they took advantage of it."

The Mustangs had a 10-point lead after three quarters of play at 33-23 but they only scored three points in the final eight minutes of play to Stevenson's 13. Regulation time ended with the score knotted at 36.

Each team scored four points in the first extra period to send it into the second overtime. There, Stevenson managed the two points to steal the victory, 42-40.

"Those are the games that are tough to lose," Schumacher said. "If you get blown out, you get blown out, but double overtime is tough. It was a very tough, emotional game. I could probably find 50 things we could have done differently."

Both Wayne and Northville started play in their district tournaments this week. Outcomes of the Monday and Wednesday games were unavailable at press time.

Tigers 'steal' victory over Eagles, claim Mega Championship title

Jeff Novak
Staff Writer

Rob Igbawua may not take credit for single-handedly winning the Mega Tournament Championship for the Belleville Tigers Friday night, but maybe he should.

If he hadn't swiped the ball from Romulus' Ron Coleman with 10 seconds left to play in the game and the score knotted at 47, the win might not have been.

"That was a hell of a move," said Belleville coach Mike Krogel. "I think Rob had confidence that he could maybe get something done and we needed something otherwise he (Coleman) was going to the hole. It was a big play."

The tension was building at Romulus High School as the Tigers battled back from a deficit

"If I didn't get the ball somebody else would have stepped up to do it."

Rob Igbawua

the Eagles held them at throughout the game.

Belleville trailed until the 1:30 mark of the fourth quarter when Will Jones nailed a shot to give the Tigers a one-point lead, their first lead since the opening minutes of the game. They fell back again when Coleman hit for a three point-play on a lay-up that he made and was fouled on. He hit the free throw to put Romulus up 47-45.

Tyler Jones, for Belleville, hit for two as he fell to the ground

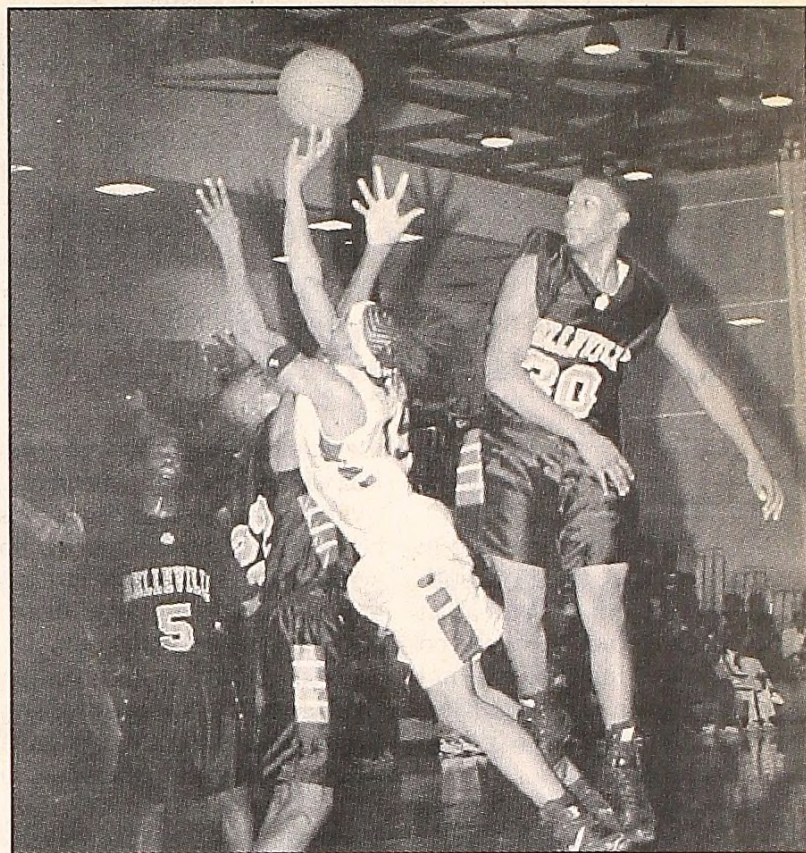
and tied the score at 47 with 48 seconds left to play. Romulus had the final possession with time ticking away until Igbawua snatched the ball and went full court with Coleman in hot pursuit. Coleman could only do one thing – foul Igbawua. At the line, Igbawua hit his first shot to give the Tigers a one-point lead and missed his second, but it wouldn't matter. Belleville held the Eagles off for the final 7.9 seconds to secure the exhilarating come-from-behind victory, 48-47.

"Defense wins championships," Igbawua said after the game. "That's what it is. That's what I came out here to do...that's what everybody on my team came out to do. If I didn't get the ball somebody else would have stepped up to do it. It's everybody, not just me. That's what it is. Defense wins championships."

Belleville lost the battle of the boards early in the game where Coleman was a force inside. He snagged everything that didn't go through the net on both sides of the court in the first half.

Romulus showed patience along the perimeter passing the ball to the outside where Jarret Smith and A.J. Hall led the Eagles to a 12-8 lead after the first quarter. The Eagles continued their solid play through the second to take a six-point lead at 28-22 to close out the first half of play.

Belleville's Matt Miller hit for two to start the second half and Tyler Jones hit for a three-point to bring the team within one point, 28-27, but Coleman scored six points in the quarter to help regain the lead at 37-31. Smith had a steal that he took full court to score on to give them an eight-point lead. Tyler Jones hit one from the line



Romulus' A.J. Hall flies towards the basket in an effort to help his team beat Belleville in the Mega Tournament Championship game Friday night. The Eagles fell short in the attempt – the Tigers triumphed, 49-47.

for Belleville to make it 39-32 at the end of three.

Coleman opened the fourth with a three-pointer to give Romulus a 10 point lead but Belleville's offense ignited and scored 15. Their defense held the Eagles to only nine points so they could steal the victory.

"I told the team at half that we have to do what we do on offense and we have to get the stops on defense and we got both things done, you know, we stepped up to the plate," Krogel said. "Will Jones did a hell of a job hitting a couple of shots. Rob (Igbawua) had the big steal and made the big free throw. It made for a heck of a game."

Miller led the Tigers in scoring with 14, Tyler Jones added 12 and Will Jones contributed with nine in the championship game. Leon Freeman and Igbawua led the team in rebounding with

seven each.

The thing that makes the Tigers so tough is that they can spread the ball around and everyone is willing to step up, according to Krogel.

"I think that's what makes us a little different than most teams," he said. "In their (Romulus) case they have one or two guys to key on. With us, we always have somebody different."

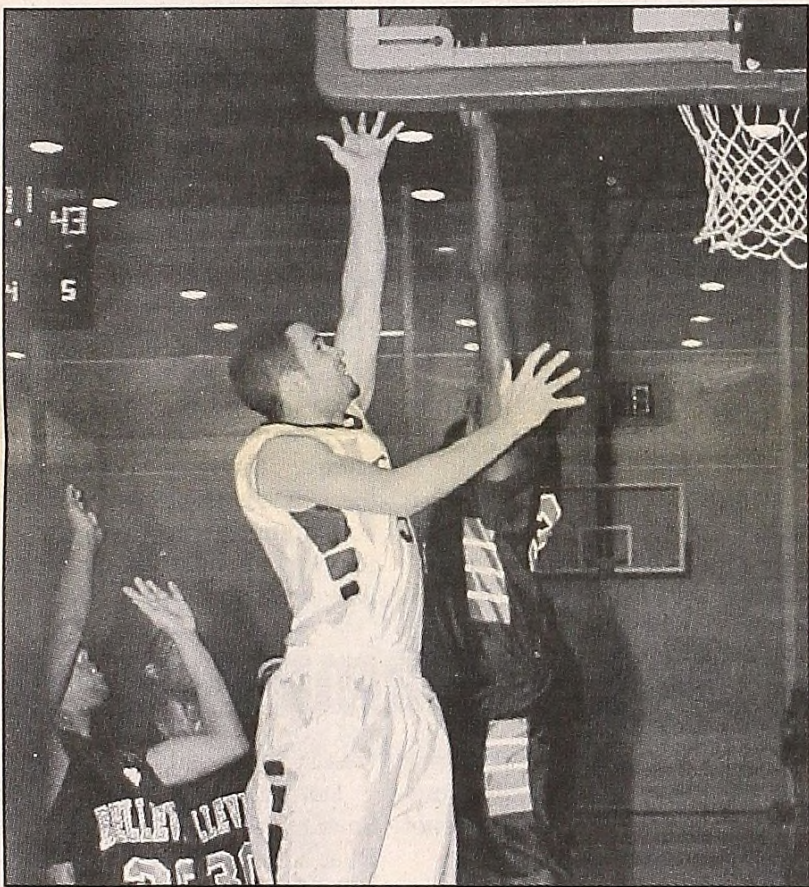
Coleman led the Eagle side of the court with 22 points and Jarrett Smith hit for 11.

Belleville 67, Ypsilanti 54

Belleville also beat Ypsilanti, 67-54, in the semi-finals of the tournament on Tuesday, March 2.

Freeman hit for a double-double and nailed 19 points and nabbed 15 rebounds. Tyler Jones added 17 points and seven assists while Isaac Kindell and Miller

See Champs, page 15



Belleville's defense blocks a shot by Romulus guard Jarret Smith on the way to a victory.

CITY OF ROMULUS NOXIOUS WEED NOTICE TO THE PROPERTY OWNERS IN THE CITY OF ROMULUS

In accordance with P.A. 359 of 1941, as amended and Chapter 19, Article 3, of the Romulus Code of Ordinances it shall be the duty of all owners of lands on which noxious weeds are found growing, to destroy the same before they reach a seed bearing stage and to prevent such weeds from becoming a detriment to public health.

If any such owner, agent or occupant of such land shall refuse to destroy such noxious weeds or cause them to be destroyed, it shall be the duty of the Noxious Weed Commissioner to enter upon such land and destroy such noxious weeds.

Nothing in this notice shall apply to weeds in fields devoted to growing any small grain crop such as wheat, oats, barley or rye.

All weeds not cut by May 1, 2004 will be cut by the City and the owner of the property will be charged with the cost. Subsequent violations will result in additional cuttings and will be done as often as necessary when vegetation reaches 12 inches in height and/or seed bearing stage.

Any expense incurred in such destruction shall be paid by the owner or owners of such land, and the city shall have a lien against such land for such expense. Any owner who shall refuse to destroy such noxious weeds shall also be subject to a fine of not more than \$ 100.00 per cutting in the discretion of the court.

All refuse and debris on the given owners property will be removed by the City at the owners' expense.

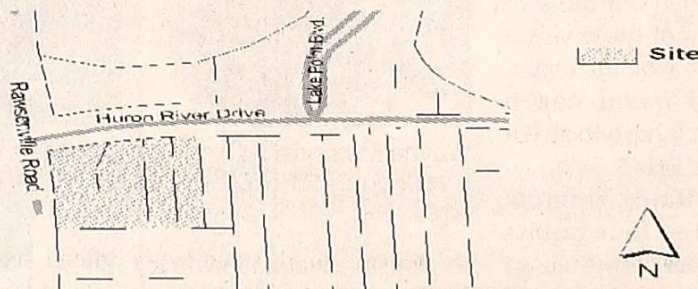
Publish: March 11, 2004
March 18, 2004

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF VAN BUREN PLANNING COMMISSION PUBLIC HEARING

Notice is hereby given that the Charter Township of Van Buren Planning Commission will hold a public hearing in the Board of Trustees Room, 46425 Tyler Road, Charter Township of Van Buren, County of Wayne, Michigan, 48111 on Wednesday March 24, 2004 to consider a zoning change on the following described property:

The Public Hearing relates to the following described property:

Parcel number V125-83-118-99-0021-702 approximately 1.94 acres is located on the south side of Huron Drive between Rawsonville Road and Fairview Court. A map indicating the location of the subject site is included below.



The applicant is requesting special use approval. A special use approval is required for a drive-through window per Section 13.03 (e) of the Zoning Ordinance. Written comments will be accepted at the Department of Developmental Services until 5:00 p.m., March 24, 2004, the hearing date.

In the spirit of compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, individuals with a disability should feel free to contact the Department of Developmental Services, at least seventy-two (72) hours in advance of the meeting, if requesting accommodations.

Publish: March 11, 2004

Canton beats rival Salem, prepares for district play

Jeff Novak
Staff Writer

The Canton Chiefs faced their neighboring rivals the Salem Rocks for the second time this season Thursday night in a Western Lakes Activities Association (WLAA) crossover match up. And, for the second time this season, they prevailed. The Chiefs won the bout, 69-50. Canton drilled Salem with five

three-pointers in the first quarter to take a commanding 21-7 lead. Andy Cortellini scored four of the five three-pointers to help rack up his 14 points to lead the team. Matt Paye hit the other three in the first. The Chiefs extended their lead to 38-15 after the second frame of play.

“We shot 60 percent from the floor in the game,” said Canton coach Charlie Paye. “When we hit from the outside it opens every-

thing up and we can go inside if we have to. When we hit those threes in the first it deflated Salem and they couldn’t come back.”

Salem came back in the second half and outscored the Chiefs 35- 31 with 14 points in the third round and 21 in the final quarter. It was too little, too late, to stage the comeback, though, and Canton finished them off.

Cortellini led the team with his 14 first-quarter points and

David Calille followed with 11 in the win. Brad Waidmann hit for 10, D.J. Bridges added eight, Corey Stewart and Julian Smith each contributed with six.

Brian Bradley and Jeff Lake led the Rocks with nine points each.

The rivalry game ended the regular season of play and both teams entered the district tournament this week.

Canton drew a bye in the first round of the District 25 tourna-

ment, hosted by Salem High School, which started Monday. Salem tipped off against Northville in the first round but the results were unavailable for publication.

The Chiefs faced Novi in the semi-final round on Wednesday but the results were incomplete for publication of this issue. The final game will be held at 7:00 p.m. tomorrow night in the Salem gymnasium.

Champs

FROM PAGE 14

each scored 10 in the victory. Josh Young and Carl White

each scored 10 for Ypsilanti.

Romulus 74, Willow Run 54

The Eagles had a rematch against Ypsilanti Willow Run in their semi-final game and came away with a 74-54 win.

Coleman led with 22 points. Avery Stevenson knocked down 13 for the team. Tremaine Thompson and Chris Clay scored 11 each for Willow Run.

The Belleville Tigers drew a

bye for the first round of the district tournament, which started Monday night with Wayne against John Glenn and Romulus versus Garden City. The tournament is being hosted at Romulus High

School. Belleville took on the winner of the Romulus game on Wednesday but the results of the game were unavailable at press time. The final game of the tournament will take place on Friday.

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF VAN BUREN REGULAR BOARD MEETING MINUTES MARCH 2, 2004

Supervisor King called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. in the Board Room. Present: Supervisor King, Clerk Payne, Trustee Hart, Trustee Herman, Trustee Jahr and Trustee Rochowiak. Absent and excused: Treasurer Budd. Others in attendance: Planning and Economic Development Director Kelley, Water and Sewer Director Duha, Recreation and Facilities Director Ross, Executive Assistant Ireland, Secretary Cline and an audience of nine (9).

APPROVAL OF AGENDA: Payne moved, Jahr seconded to approve the agenda as presented. Carried.

PUBLIC HEARING: Jahr moved, Herman seconded to open the public hearing to receive public comment on the request for an Industrial Facilities Certificate for Grand River Printing and Imaging. Carried.

Supervisor King opened the public hearing and reviewed the tax abatement documents from Grand River Printing and Imaging as follows. The Board must consider both the agreement and the resolution as a requirement of Public Act 198, which states the agreement is between the Township and the company. Public Act 198 allows local communities to consider an industrial facilities exemption certificate more commonly know as a tax abatements as a way to attract businesses and spur economic development. Grand River Printing and Imaging was founded in 1978 and is currently working out of two separate buildings. The future location would consolidate their operation into one larger building at 8455 Haggerty Road, which is located in an existing Industrial Development District number seven. In January 2004 the Board of Trustees approved a speculative building designation in order to keep an incentive option available as a useful strategy to encourage specific business uses. Grand River Printing and Imaging is Michigan’s largest commercial web offset printing company. They employ 85 employees and expect to add an additional 25 jobs in the next two years. They are a national company and Grand River’s client base extends from local schools, community colleges and universities to ad agencies and major national accounts. They provide printing, which includes annual reports, catalogues, publications, direct mailing products, advertising brochures and bill inserts. Grand River Printing and Imaging has received the following awards: Crain’s Detroit Business and IRI Consultants Top Ten Best Workplaces in Southeast Michigan Award twice in 1999–2000 and 2001-2002; Crain’s Detroit Business Best Workplaces in Southeastern Michigan in 2002-2003; the recipient on three separate occasions of recognition as one of the top 50 fastest growing printers in the country; and the Printing Industries and America/Graphic Arts Monthly Best Workplaces in America in 2001. Grand River Printing and Imaging have entered into a long-term lease with the property owner and will occupy the entire 86,30 square feet of the facility. The proposed new investment is estimated at \$10,698,000 of which approximately \$5,200,000 is new personal property. Less than 20 percent of their workforce is unskilled with the remainder being skilled and/or professional. There is no outside storage proposed, no hazardous material storage, no negative impact on air quality and no significant noise impact. Supervisor King further stated the applicant has met the basic objectives of the Board-approved abatement guidelines with regard to long-term investment in the community, expansion of tax base and the creation/retention of jobs and qualifies for an eight (8) year fifty percent tax abatement for both real and personal property.

Supervisor King stated currently there are only five other tax abatements in Van Buren Township with expirations as follows: one expiring in at the end of this year, one in two years, and one in four years. The remaining two Ricardo and Visteon Corporations have longer terms before expiring.

Trustee Hart stated Trustee Jahr and he had toured Grand River Printing and Imaging facility and is looking forward to them moving to Van Buren Township. Representatives from Grand River Printing and Imaging were present and Mr. Green, CEO stated they are excited to be moving to Van Buren Township and proud of being a manufacturing company with plans on a long-term relationship in the township.

Supervisor King stated this is a women owned business and further that the average shop worker wage after one year of employment is over \$18 per hour and includes a full benefit package.

Clerk Payne stated it was discussed at the Work Study Session that the Grand River Printing and Imaging’s lease is for 15 years with two 5 year extensions.

There being no further discussion, a motion was made to close the public hearing.

Jahr moved, Payne seconded to close the public hearing. Carried.

MINUTES: Rochowiak moved, Hart seconded to approve the Work Study Session Minutes of February 17, 2004 as presented. Carried.

Hart moved, Herman seconded to approve the Regular Board Meeting Minutes of February 17, 2004 as presented. Carried.

CORRESPONDENCE: On Saturday, March 27th from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. a Belleville Lake Shoreline Management Workshop will be held at Van Buren Township Hall. For further information contact the Environmental Department at 699.8913.

Two thank you letters from the Michigan Recreation and Parks Association (MRPA) to Director Ross the first thanking Director Ross for being a presenter at the annual conference and the second for working on the MRPA Board of Directors.

A letter from Pro-Tech Auction thanking Officer Greene for his assistance given during a recent theft incident.

A thank you letter from American Red Cross to Detective Abdilla for donations given by the Van Buren Township community in the wake of 9/11.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: None.

NEW BUSINESS: Hart moved, Payne seconded to approve the Industrial Facilities Tax Agreement with Grand River Printing and Imaging and authorize the Supervisor and Clerk to execute the agreement. Carried.

Jahr moved, Hart seconded to adopt Resolution 2004-07 granting an Industrial Facilities Exemption Certificate for Grand River Printing and Imaging. Carried.

Rochowiak moved, Herman seconded to approve a Personal Services Agreement [with Larrie Ordus] as the Water and Sewer Superintendent and to authorize Supervisor and Clerk to execute the agreement. Carried.

VOUCHER LIST: Hart moved, Payne seconded to approve the March 2, 2004 voucher list as presented. Carried.

REPORTS: Supervisor King ordered the December 2003 Budgetary Report received and filed.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: The quilt exhibit on display at the Belleville Area Museum will run through the end of March.

The Recreation Department announced the following events: The Summer Camp program registration began on Monday, March 1st all programs except the new “Tween Camp” were filled on Monday, March 1st. An American Red Cross Babysitter Certification Class on Saturday, March 13th from 9:00 a.m. until 3:00 p.m. The annual Marshmallow Drop will be held on Saturday, April 3rd, at 10:00 a.m. The rainout date is Sunday, April 4th at 1:30 p.m. In addition, a pancake breakfast will be held prior to the Marshmallow drop in the Van Buren Township Gymnasium at 8:30 a.m. For further information on classes and events contact the Recreation Department at 734.699.8921.

The Belleville Rotary Club will be hosting an Italian dinner buffet on March 23rd, from 5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. at the Van Buren Eagles Club on Beck Road. Tickets may be purchased from any Rotary member.

AUDIENCE (Non-Agenda Items): None.

CLOSED SESSION: None.

ADJOURNMENT: Hart moved, Payne seconded to adjourn at 8:05 p.m. Carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Joannie D. Payne, CMC
Township Clerk

Cindy C. King
Supervisor

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